

CAREER FOCUS

Force Development Center stands up: CAA, FTAC, PD programs join

BY MASTER SGT.
DAVID HALVORSON
TEAM KIRTLAND
Career Assistance Advisor

Q I heard a rumor that the First Term Airman's Center is relocating its offices soon. Is this true, and can you tell me more about the move?

A It's true, as a matter of fact, they've already relocated to the Consolidated Support Building.

In the planning stages for almost two years, the Kirtland AFB, Force Development Center is now operational, housing the functions of the Career Assistance Advisor, First Term Airman's Center and Professional Development Programs in a single location within the Consolidated Support Building, Bldg. 20245.

Leading the way with Force Development initiatives, Kirtland AFB leadership has been pushing hard to stand up this joint facility to enhance the effectiveness of programs essential to the development and growth of our most valuable resource –people!

What's the end result? Let's look at all three operations, starting with the office of the Career Assistance Advisor.

For almost five years the office of the CAA has offered base personnel a senior noncommissioned officer whose sole responsibility is to provide career counseling to Airmen, and answer questions about various career paths, retraining/cross-training and other related initiatives.

To be effective, personnel needed easy and convenient access to my office. My old digs in the Wing Headquarters certainly served their purpose, but the march down the hall of flags could be intimidating.

Often Airmen would tell me that they've been meaning to make an appointment or stop in, but they were uncomfortable doing so, being unfamiliar with the protocol (actual and perceived) of the 377th Air Base Wing headquarters. But, things just got easier!

My office is now located in close proximity to the agencies most closely linked to my retention mission, includ-

ing the Military Personnel Flight, Finance Office, Housing Office, Family Support Center and the American Red Cross, to name just a few. And by being within walking distance of the dorms and dining facility, Airmen without transportation can make their way to my office without having to choose between a visit or a meal. It's a win-win situation! But that's not all...

Working along side me are the professionals who manage the First Term Airman's Center. This critical and highly-polished operation was previously located deep within haunts of the headquarters building, and the old and worn façade of the classroom and offices carried a silent and unintentional (but powerful) message to those who passed through its doors: this is NOT a priority program.

Thanks to Kirtland AFB's top leadership, the new facility will greet Airmen with an entirely different message: Welcome to TEAM KIRTLAND—you're at the top of our list of priorities!

What's the big deal, you ask? Seasoned leaders can vividly recall the chaotic days before the First Term Airman's Center stood up. A time before every new Airman was guaranteed to receive the universal fundamentals that give them the foundation necessary for success. Thanks to FTAC, those days are long gone.

The powerful 12-day experience provided by the First Term Airman's Center gives Airmen exposure to over 55 key agencies, programs, personnel and points of contact. And locating the FTAC operation in the Consolidated Support Building offers those same Airmen easy access to key agencies and personnel as they begin serving their assignment in the Land of Enchantment.

Again, the outcome is win-win!

Finally, there are the myriad Professional Development Programs.

The Force Development Center now offers a permanent home to a variety of previously "mobile" courses and programs geared toward the professional growth and development of Air Force personnel, for officer, enlisted or civilian.



Master Sgt. David Halvorson

Our Professional Development Programs classroom (one of two in the Force Development Center) can seat 32+ students in a state-of-the-art training facility that offers high-end, multimedia systems, a snack bar and most importantly, a central (read convenient) location designed for and dedicated to the purpose of education and training.

To be specific, the Force Development Center facility provides a permanent location to host the Lieutenants Professional Development Program, the Enlisted Professional Development Course Program, a yet to be developed Civilian Professional Development Program and other similar programs offered by Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve personnel and the offices of Civilian Personnel.

Yes, there's reason to celebrate!

The impact of collocating these functions will be far reaching for the personnel of TEAM KIRTLAND, and while we're still in the final stages of moving and organizing, the offices of the Career Assistance Advisor, First Term Airman Center and Force Development Programs are operational!

Be watching for word on an official ribbon cutting sometime this summer, but be sure to stop in today if you want to visit any of our offices.

For more information on Force Development Center operations, contact the Professional Development Center Superintendent, Master Sgt. David A. Halvorson, 846-6636 or via email, david.halvorson@kirtland.af.mil.



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Nucleus is on the Web
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Submission deadline
9 a.m. the Friday before
publication. Deadlines
change for holidays.

**Advertising deadlines
Classified:**
Tuesday, noon, 892-9400,
observerclass@attglobal.net

Display:
Friday, 5 p.m., 892-9400,
observerads@attglobal.net

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FORUM

kirtlandcc.forum@kirtland.af.mil, 846-4240

'Can do' attitude

I would like to bring to your attention the "can do" attitude of one of your TEAM KIRTLAND members. His name is Blas Casaus, and he works the meat department in the Commissary. He is personable, courteous, reliable and one can always count on him to satisfy your order.

Please express my appreciation to Blas Casaus for a job well done. Thank you!

Thank you for taking the time to point out and compliment Mr. Casaus, one of our long time TEAM KIRTLAND members. Suggestions and comments from our loyal and valued customers are always welcomed. Our goals are to achieve the highest level of customer service and make your shopping experience pleasant.

Mr. Casaus has been working at the Commissary for over 20 years and providing great customer service is his top priority. We were delighted to pass on your comments to Mr. Casaus and also let the Commissary store director know of your satisfaction.

Thank you again for taking the time to pass on kudos for Mr. Casaus. We encourage you to continue taking advantage of your commissary benefit and the 30 percent plus savings.

Schwebke Field condition

I am a coach of an intramural softball team, and have been an assistant for two years. As a coach and a player my first concern is safety. Safety is not only teaching proper technique but also insuring that the facilities are in good playing condition.

As a coach I feel it is my job to notify you that the Schwebke Field is not in good condition. The infield in particular is extremely rough.

I have spoken to the person in charge of the field and he assured me that the process for fixing the field was too long and not worth the effort. However, he agreed with me that the field was in poor condition.

The fixes for this field are easy and I would much rather have the



COL. HENRY L. ANDREWS, JR.
377th Air Base Wing commander

field fixed than a new scoreboard.

I would appreciate someone looking into this and into why the gym takes no action. All the field needs is to be plowed, leveled and some new dirt added.

You're right. Safety on our athletic fields is something we need to pay careful attention to. At the time of your call, Schwebke Field was being heavily used for an upcoming tournament and practice for the opening of the intramural softball season. We have worked the issue, having leveled and groomed the infield on April 23 and 26.

Our 377th Air Base Wing Safety professionals then evaluated the field on April 28 and deemed it safe, clearing it for the start of our intramural season that opened on May 3.

Thank you for your feedback and support of our outstanding intramural softball program. We hope you continue to enjoy it.

'Stop' trap?

I believe this case is almost a "stop" trap (taken after the term "speed" trap). I left work about 12:30 p.m. to pick my wife up at the train station and drove her home, then returned to work about 3 p.m. I entered the base near Eubank and G

Avenue. There is some construction occurring at Sandia National Labs, and 20th Street that have detours. This construction has caused numerous traffic changes to Hardin. There is a stop sign for the entrance to a Sandia parking lot. Two other cars approached this intersection at the same time and we kind of had a short standoff. After passing this intersection I found myself almost instantly at another intersection that had a temporary stop sign in the middle of the road. I was already well into the intersection before I knew it and realized I could not stop and just continued on.

An officer stopped me between 9th and Wyoming. I told him I knew why he stopped me and that stop sign had not been there this morning. He agreed and stated they had numerous people running the stop sign so base police were called out to "police" the intersection.

I do not call handing out \$53 dollar tickets on the first half-day a temporary stop sign is put in place "policing." I call it pure and simple harassment I believe warnings or a uniformed officer or construction worker should be in place the first day, and then tickets later would be more "driver friendly."

Thank you for contacting TEAM KIRTLAND with your concern. The area where you were cited, Sandia National Laboratories' Micro-electronics Engineering and Science Applications facility, is the largest construction project in New Mexico. Safety and efficient construction are our constant goals in this ever-changing environment. We, in conjunction with our Sandia partners, strive to make motorists and others who traverse this area aware of the changing situation.

Our intent was not to establish a "trap" for issuing citations. That said, construction zones are fraught with increased risks for accidents and require constant review, monitoring and change. Our security forces team is part of the monitoring process to ensure motorists comply with the traffic controls and keep the multitude of personnel in the area safe.

In the future, we'll provide more frequent reminders to motorists regarding developments in this part of Kirtland AFB. We'll also have our base traffic working group include this topic as a regular agenda item. We'll do better thanks to your input.

No salute

I am from out of town and when I approached the base and went through the main gate. I asked the gate guard why he did not salute me, and he says, "we are not allowed to salute other military branch officers, Marines, Army, Air Force or Navy."

I said, I am a retired Navy-rank officer in the commissioned corps of the U.S. Public Health Service and he says, "no this is just my order." So, I was just curious about that, I had an Army career along with U.S. Public Health Service, I was not civil service. This should be addressed.

I will probably not be here again, but I thought I would pass this on in case there is some erroneous information being passed along.

Thank you for letting us know about your concerns regarding the rendering of proper customs and courtesies. Please know that we have reiterated to all gate guards the fact that we are to salute all commissioned officers of the Uniformed Services.

Forum

We want your suggestions and comments concerning Kirtland AFB.

However, may we also suggest giving base agencies or the chain of command the chance to resolve your concern before calling Forum.

If you decide the Forum is the right answer, we don't print callers' names.

Customer service

Chapel, 846-5691

CE Help Desk, 846-8222

Commissary, 846-9586

Computer help, 846-5926

Energy wasting, 846-4633

Exchange Service, 266-9887

Family Services, 846-0741

Finance, 846-8045, 846-6639

Law Enforcement, 846-7926

Legal Services, 846-4217

Medical Clinic, 846-3406

Services Squadron, 846-1828

Write: 377 ABW/CC Forum

2000 Wyoming SE

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